Low export of medical herbal products

*224. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China exports medicinal herbal products worth $ 5 billion against India's Rs. 200 million;

(b) whether a major share of India's medicinal herbal exports go to China in raw form, where it undergoes value addition and is re-exported; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per COMTRADE, ITC/UNCTAD, world imports of plants and parts of plants primarily used for pharmacy, perfumery and insecticides: fresh, dried, powdered-(SITC Code No 2924) amounted to US $ 1.33 billion in 2005. China's total exports under the same category in the year 2005 amounted to US $ 286 million.

As per the statistics collated by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Government of India, India's total exports of medicinal plants and products in the year 2005-06 (April-March) amounted to US $ 112 million.

(b) and (c) The export basket of medicinal plants and herbs from India to China consists of raw herbs also, which are used in Chinese system of medicines as well as in development of some formulation of single item. However, Indian export of medicinal plant to China during 2005-06 were only US$ 1.57 million which in no way can be called a major export for India or great source of value added products for China.

Progress made in fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Border

*225. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of progress made in wired fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) whether it is a fact that there could be a possibility of delay in the completion of wired fencing;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay and possible date of completion;

(d) whether it is also a fact that at several places, the existing fence has been removed and poles have been uprooted; and

(e) if so, the reasons for poor maintenance and the steps being taken to maintain the wired fencing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Out of 3286 km. of fencing sanctioned in two

phases. along Indo-Bangladesh border, 2506 km. of fencing has been completed as on 31.7.2007.

(b) and (c) Shortfalls are attributable to difficulties due to presence of habitation within 150 yards from the international border, delay in land acquisition in some areas and difficult topographical conditions. The feasible length is likely to be completed by the year 2008-09.

(d) and (e) The Government has made adequate provisions for maintenance of fencing which primarily get damaged due to adverse climatic conditions, water logging, floods, etc. The Government has also decided to replace and upgrade the entire fence constructed under Phase-I along Indo-Bangladesh border with a modified design.

Survey on Indian languages

*226. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct a survey on Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when such last survey was conducted and what are its statistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The First Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) was conducted by Sir George A. Grierson, an Irish philologist during 1898-1927 in the pre-independence period. The Survey results were published in 11 volumes and 19 parts establishing 544 dialects and 179 languages at that point of time. The LSI established for the first time six families of which these languages/dialects were affiliated in the undivided India. However, it (LSI) did not cover the Southern parts of India.

The classification provided by LSI has been the basis for presentation of data on mother tongues/languages returned at each of the censuses even in the post-independence India. However, the affiliation of some of the languages in the classification has undergone a change based on subsequent investigations and research.

Since LSI of Sir George A. Grierson has limitations arising out of the approach adopted then and since new tools, techniques and survey instruments for analysis and description of language have become available, the Government proposes to launch a New Linguistic Survey of India (NLSI). The NLSI project will be of 10 years duration and envisages an expenditure of more than Rs. 500 crores. For the Eleventh Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 280 crores is envisaged.

Labour rights of women workers

*227. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to ensure the labour rights of women working in the unorganised sector;